



Fire Ecology Intern

Fire Ecology Intern Position Description

In May, 2013 there was a 24,000 acre wildfire in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (see <http://www.nps.gov/samo/parkmgmt/2013-springs-fire.htm>). The unusual seasonal timing of the fire was due to drought in the preceeding year; since the fire we have seen the most extreme drought conditions recorded for Southern California. The park will be monitoring many aspects of both the fire and the drought during the spring and summer (2014). The intern will perform vegetation monitoring in new and established wildfire plots and will participate in other related field projects with the park's vegetation group. Office work will involve data entry, organization of project files, and data analysis. The intern will learn and work with the federal resource agencies' fire monitoring database, FFI.

Major Duties

- Get experience in collecting plot-based postfire vegetation data including plant density, cover, species identification for diversity measurements and burn severity in predominately chaparral and coastal sage scrub. Assist in the field with other park vegetation projects related to inventory and monitoring and restoration when additional personnel are needed.
- Get experience in assessing drought impacts in various local vegetation types.
- Learn data entry into FFI, the federal fire agencies fire monitoring software, update and organize legacy fire monitoring data
- Get experience in field GPS navigation and data collection and mapping with GIS
- Get experience in data organization, analysis and preparing summary reports

Knowledge, Skills and Abilities Required:

- Intern must be a US citizen or permanent resident of the United States.
- Undergraduate degree in the biological sciences; familiarity with the southern California flora and general botany.
- Ability to identify plants to species using a key; ability to gather field data with accuracy.
- Ability to perform computer word processing and data management (Word and Excel)
- Familiarity with Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Access, and geographic information systems (ArcGIS) is desirable.
- Ability to compile and organize information to assist with technical reports.
- Capacity to travel by foot and perform strenuous physical activities on and off trail and under difficult conditions; knowledge of field GPS use is desirable.
- Ability to work well both independently and as part of a team, be detail-oriented and organized.
- Good oral and written communication skills and ability to follow oral and written directions.
- Valid driver's license is required.
- Must have own transportation to and from worksite. Government vehicles are available for intern use within the scope of their internship.

Work Site and Conditions:

- Office work will require working in a comfortable office environment with a computer, reference documents and other technical resources.
- Field work will require work outdoors in the Santa Monica Mountains and may require moderately strenuous hiking on steep slopes, work in isolated areas, long exposure to high and low temperature extremes, and potential encounters with poison oak, ticks, bees and yellow jackets, and rattlesnakes.
- Intern projects can be part time (usually 6 months) or full time (usually 12 weeks).
- Intern will work weekdays. Schedules are flexible with advance co-ordination with the project supervisor.
- Fingerprint and/or background check are required.

Compensation:

A stipend of \$20 per workday may be available. Intern will be paid monthly or as worked out by the intern supervisor. Full time interns from outside the area may be eligible for shared housing.

How to Apply

To apply, submit the following documents via email to ryan_stead@nps.gov.

- Letter of intent (include how the position will benefit your career, the dates you are available, whether you need housing, your understanding that this internship is unpaid, except for the stipend, and that you have your own vehicle for transportation to and from work)
- Resume
- Transcripts (unofficial are acceptable)
- Three references

For additional questions contact ryan_stead@nps.gov.



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